



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: June 4, 2014

FR: Carolyn Clevenger

RE: MTC Public Engagement – 2017 Plan Bay Area Update

Background

In June 2013, MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) approved *Plan Bay Area*, the first Regional Transportation Plan for the region that also includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as required by Senate Bill 375. Per federal requirements, MTC must update the RTP every four years. This memo outlines the overall approach and schedule for the 2017 update of *Plan Bay Area*.

Approach – Limited and Focused Update

The approval of *Plan Bay Area (Plan)* was the culmination of over three years of planning and public engagement. Staff and partners from throughout the region are now in the process of implementing projects and programs identified in the 28-year Plan and developing those initiatives highlighted in the Plan for future work. Although the federal guidelines require the RTP to be updated every four years, the plans themselves are long range plans, and many key policy priorities, projects and programs remain the same from one plan to the next. As staff looks towards the 2017 update of the Plan, our approach for this planning cycle is to conduct a limited and focused update of *Plan Bay Area* building off of the core framework established by the Plan.

One key difference between the 2013 Plan and the 2017 update is that the 2017 update does not include the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, which was required in 2013, and will be again in the 2021 SCS. The RHNA process added a great deal of outreach and planning work that will not be necessary for the 2017 Plan Update. In addition, this will not be the region's first SCS, so we can build on lessons learned in the first integrated transportation and land use planning effort.

Key Initiatives

The 2017 update will focus on specific new initiatives and policy issues that were identified in *Plan Bay Area* as being key items to develop and integrate into the next Plan. These include greater integration with other regional initiatives, done in coordination with or led by partner regional agencies, such as:

- Sea level rise adaptation planning;
- Healthy infill development guidelines;
- Priority Development Area assessment; and
- Economic development and prosperity analysis and coordination.

In addition, MTC is advancing a Regional Goods Movement Plan and two transit studies focused on capacity and connectivity of the region's core transit systems. These initiatives will all be key inputs into the 2017 update. Recommendations from these initiatives will be developed on a rolling basis heading into the 2017 update.

Outreach Strategy

MTC will work with ABAG and other partner agencies to scale public engagement at a level appropriate for this focused plan update. A framework for the public engagement will be developed as part of the Draft Public Participation Plan process slated to begin this Fall.

Many of the suggestions from Council members made at your May meeting will be incorporated. Comment opportunities will include the key initiatives mentioned above. We will conduct public meetings in all nine Bay Area counties, develop an online forum for public engagement for those who can't easily attend meetings, offer presentations to civic groups and community organizations and work again with community-based organizations to involve residents in low-income communities and communities of color.

Next Steps

At your June meeting, staff is requesting feedback on the high-level approach outlined here. The feedback we receive at your meeting will help inform a July presentation to the joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administration Committee regarding the 2017 update to Plan Bay Area.